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Application Serial No. 09/721,141

--Figs. 7a-e are diagrams illustrating an example of the process performed in Steps 256-257. Fig. 7a, is a dependency tree diagram for four tasks (Task 1 - Task 4). In this example, Task 2 is dependent upon Task 1, and Tasks 3 and 4 are dependent upon Task 2. Fig. 7b is a table providing pertinent information concerning the Group 3 assignments. Fig. 7c is a table providing pertinent information concerning the Group 4 assignments. In Fig. 7c, each of the assignments associated with Task 1 have been scheduled with the exception of Assignment 2. If Assignment 2 is the Current Assignment, upon scheduling Assignment 2, all of the assignments for Task 1 will be scheduled. At this point, the Group 4 assignments are examined to determine which assignments were dependent upon Task 1. Because Task 2 is directly dependent upon Task 1, each of the predecessor counts for the Task 2 assignments (Assignments 4-7) are decremented by one. Furthermore, because Task 3 and Task 4 are indirectly dependent upon Task 1 (i.e. they are dependent on Task 2 which is dependent on Task 1) then each of the predecessor counts for Task 3 and Task 4 assignments are decremented by 1. Finally, if the predecessor counts of any Group 4 assignments have been decremented to zero, then they are moved into Group 3. In this example, the Task 2 assignments (Assignments 4-7) will be moved into Group 3. Figs. 7d-e illustrate the results after Assignment 2 has been scheduled. Fig 7d illustrates that Assignments 4- 7 have been moved into Group 3. Fig 7e illustrates that the predecessor counts for Assignments 8-10 have been decremented by 1 but they remain in Group 4.--

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel Claims 26-35 and replace them with new Claims 40-49: